

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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P R 161556Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6653
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1982

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OAS, PGEN, UY
SUBJ: VIII OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY: URUGUAYAN POSITIONS

REF: (A) STATE 148121 (B) STATE 138739

1. DURING PAST TWO MONTHS, MISSION OFFICERS HAVE CONSULTED EXTENSIVELY WITH PRINCIPALS OF URUGUAYAN OASGA DELEGATION REGARDING GENERAL ASSEMBLY ISSUES. THESE CONSULTATIONS HAVE, PERFORCE, DEALT HEAVILY WITH HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, VIRTUALLY THE SOLE FOCUS OF HIGH-LEVEL GOU ATTENTION (SEE SEPTTEL). NONETHELESS, WE HAVE ALSO RAISED RANGE OF OTHER ISSUES SUGGESTED BY REF (A). THE GOU DELEGATIONS'S ANTICIPATED POSITIONS GENERALLY PARALLEL THOSE EXPRESSED BY AMBASSADOR MARQUES SERE TO TRAGEN IN MAY (REF(B)), WITH FOLLOWING MINOR VARIATIONS:

A. PANAMA-U.S. RELATIONS. GOU IS PLEASED WITH RESOLUTION OF CANAL ISSUE. HOWEVER, AS GOU HAS ALWAYS REGARDED QUESTION AS OF ONLY PERIPHERAL INTEREST, DELEGATION HAS NO DESIRE TO PROLONG DISCUSSION PARTICULARLY IN
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FORM OF CONFRONTATION WITH U.S. RE DE CONCINI AMENDMENT.

B. OAS REFORM. GOU CONTINUES TO SUPPORT A MEANINGFUL INSTITUTIONAL REFORM, FOLLOWING UPON AGREEMENT OF MEMBER STATES ON LIMITED NUMBER OF MAJOR FUNCTIONAL QUESTIONS AT ISSUE. DELEGATION IS WILLING TO CONSIDER A VARIETY OF FORMULAS TO BREAK DEADLOCK, BUT MUST OPPOSE ANY ARRANGEMENT WHICH

WOULD DELEGATE ITS NEGOTIATING PREROGATIVES TO ANOTHER COUNTRY.

C. U.S. QUOTA. DELEGATION COMPREHENDS POLITICAL NECESSITY FOR U.S. TO REDUCE ITS QUOTA OF ASSESSED BUDGET AND WILL PASSIVELY SUPPORT U.S. ON THIS QUESTION. HOWEVER, IT CANNOT (FOR INTERNAL POLITICAL REASONS) CO-SPONSOR A RESOLUTION ON THIS QUESTION OR EVEN STAND IN SMALL MINORITY TO VOTE WITH U.S. DELEGATION DOES BELIEVE THAT AN ACCEPTABLE FORMULA TO RESOLVE QUESTION CAN BE NEGOTIATED.

D. ECONOMIC/DEVELOPMENT ISSUES. GOU FINDS SCCN USEFUL AS A LEVER AND VISIBLE PUBLIC FORUM FOR CRITICIZING TRADE-LIMITING MEASURES BY THE U.S., SUCH AS TIN (WHERE IT SUPPORTED BOLIVIA) AND SUGAR (WHERE IT MAY JOIN OTHERS IN ATTACKING U.S. MEASURES). HOWEVER, GOU ALSO REALIZES THAT GROWTH OF ITS NON-TRADITIONAL EXPORTS OWES MUCH TO U.S. MARKET ACCESS.

2. COMMENT: AMBASSADORS GIAMBRUNO AND MARQUES SERE (WITH FORMIN ROVIRA, URUGUAY'S PRINCIPAL OASGA DELEGATES) HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT, LACKING INSTRUCTIONS, THEY WILL BE QUOTE WINGING IT UNQUOTE ON MANY MAJOR ISSUES. BOTH ARE HIGHLY EXPERIENCED CAREER DIPLOMATS, MODERATE IN THEIR VIEWS, AND DESIROUS OF SEEING A GENUINELY SUCCESSFUL OASGA. HOWEVER, ON SOME ISSUES THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY CAN PRO-CONFIDENTIAL

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MOTE POSITIONS SUPPORTIVE OF OURS WILL DEPEND HEAVILY ON TENOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEBATE, PARTICULARLY AS IT AFFECTS URUGUAY. THEY WILL ALSO HAVE TO BE RESPONSIVE TO BRAZILIAN AND ARGENTINE PRESSURES ON SOME ISSUES.
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